FARM SUMMIT
BUCKS COUNTY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2016

Our Goal: To promote and support farming, agribusiness, and food manufacturers as well as provide assistance to existing and the next generation of farmers in the sustainability of farming and the startup, operation, and profitability of future farms in Bucks County.

Bucks County Board of Commissioners
Robert G. Loughery, Chairman; Charles H. Martin, Vice Chairman; and Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, L.C.S.W.

Bucks County Community College:
Upper Bucks Campus
1 Hillendale Road
Perkasie, PA 18944

March 30, 2016
3:00 - 7:00 PM

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
by contacting the
Bucks County Planning Commission
Telephone: 215-345-3400
E-mail: bcpc@buckscounty.org
or register on-line by clicking link below

2016 Farm Summit

Please confirm your attendance
by contacting the
Bucks County Planning Commission
bcpc@buckscounty.org
215-345-3400
Bucks County’s farming and agribusiness industries are important parts of the local economy, contributing over $62 million per year and employing hundreds of its residents. Over the past few years, the county commissioners have increased efforts to support the county’s workforce and economic development programs to strengthen the overall economy in the county. As the county celebrates success in preserving over 15,000 acres of prime agricultural land, the commissioners would now like to match their strong record of preserving farmland with equally dynamic initiatives that support our farm families, agribusiness owners, and food manufacturers.

The commissioners announced at their August 12, 2015, public meeting held at the Grange Fair in Wrightstown Township, that they would host a Farm Summit in 2016. The purpose of the summit, to be led by representatives of the farming, agribusiness, and food manufacturing communities, is to identify strategic and valuable steps the county, local governments, civic leaders, and the agrarian community can take, in areas of workforce development, training, and financial needs, that will strengthen the farm, agribusiness, and food manufacturing industries.

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Purpose: The purpose is to determine through group-led discussions, the type of assistance or coordination the county can provide to these industries on business and financial needs, land preservation programs, and workforce development and training.

Invitees: Farmers, Agribusiness Owners, Food Manufacturers (PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

Participants: Lynn Bush, Executive Director, Bucks County Planning Commission
Richard Harvey, Program Director, Bucks County Agricultural Land Preservation Program
David Johnson, Coordinator, Bucks County Open Space Preservation Program
Peter Krauss, Executive Director, Bucks County Industrial Development Authority
Karen Smith-Burden, Business & Industry Specialist, BC Workforce Development Board
Jared Grissinger, Economic Development Div Chief, PA Grows, PA Dept of Agriculture
John H. Howard, Preserved Farms Resource Center, PA Dept of Agriculture
Darlene Livingston, Executive Director, Farmlink
Jodi Gauker, AgConnect
John Berry, Penn State Cooperative Extension Service
Lori Oraschin, Oraschin & Associates
Bucks County Farm Bureau
And more to come...
1. Welcome – Commissioners 3:00 P.M.

2. Open Discussion on Farm Summit Survey Results 3:15 – 4:00 P.M.

3. Information Sessions 4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

**Access to Loans for:**
- acquisition of land and buildings (i.e., assistance in locating land & farm expansions)
- commodity production
- infrastructure improvements (i.e., electric, water, or sewer)
- livestock, feed, and seed
- machine and equipment
- minor improvements or repairs to buildings and other structures
- processing, marketing, or distribution
- working capital

**Bucks County Land Preservation Programs**
- agricultural land preservation
- open space and natural areas

4. Refreshments/Continue Open Discussion on Survey Results 5:00 – 6:00 P.M.

5. Information Sessions 6:00 – 7:00 P.M.

**Financial, Succession, and Tax Planning**
- accounting
- income diversification
- margin management
- estate planning

**Workforce Development and Training**
- hiring and training resources for existing and new employees
- developing the youth pipeline